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PP RUHHR
DE RUESELK #7700 3210430
ZNY 00000 12H
P R 251107Z OCT 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUHHR/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6203
INFO RUHHR/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2516
RUHHR/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0400
RUHHR/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0043
RUHHR/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1807
RUHHR/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2211
RUHHR/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1577
RUHHR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1316
RUHHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 0571
RUHHR/AMEMBASSY CINCINNATI
BT

003349

REL
INFO
ECON
REF
OTHER

CONFIDENTIAL: KABL 7700

CINCINNATI ALSO FOR POLAD

1. (U) 1200Z 1005 10/25/79 (TAYLOR, JAMES E.) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, PINT, AF, GE
SUBJ: (U) NEW EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO REPLACE CENTRAL
FIGURE IN LAST SUMMER'S REPORTED ATTEMPT TO BROADEN
REGIME'S POLITICAL BASE

REF: KABL 6389 (NOTAL)

1. (U) SUMMARY: A NEW EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN NAMED
TO KABL TO REPLACE HERMANN SCHWIESAU, A CENTRAL FIGURE
HERE IN LAST SUMMER'S PURPORTED SOVIET ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE
KHALQI REGIME "BROADEN ITS POLITICAL BASE." WHETHER THERE WAS
ANY FIRE BEHIND THAT POLITICAL SMOKE REMAINS UNCLEAR, BUT
THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THEN PRIME MINISTER HAFIZULLAH
AMIN, THE REPORTED TARGET FOR THIS "CAMPAIGN" FOR WHICH
SCHWIESAU WAS A MAJOR MOUTHPIECE, KNEW ABOUT THE AFFAIR. SCHWIESAU
ABRUPTLY DEPARTED KABUL ABOUT THE TIME IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT
AMIN'S POWERS WERE NOT BEING CURTAILED, BUT FIRM EVIDENCE
REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS DEPARTURE AND
REPLACEMENT HAS NOT YET COME TO LIGHT. AT ANY RATE, FOR THE
SHORT TERM AT LEAST, THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE CHOICE
BUT TO BACK AMIN'S EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE THE REVOLUTION.
END OF SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 24, THE DRA ANNOUNCED
THAT IT HAD GIVEN AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF KRAFT
BUMBEL (AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES INSIST THAT IS THE
CORRECT SPELLING) AS THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF THE GERMAN DEMO-
CRATIC REPUBLIC TO KABUL. NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE INCLUDED
IN THE BRIEF REPORT.

3. (U) COMMENT: BUMBEL REPLACES FORMER GDR AMBASSADOR HER-
MANN SCHWIESAU WHO WAS A CENTRAL FIGURE IN LAST SUMMER'S
REPORTED SOVIET "CAMPAIGN" TO PERSUADE THE DRA LEADERSHIP TO
"BROADEN ITS POLITICAL BASE OF SUPPORT." ALONG WITH SOVIET
MINISTER-COUNSELOR VASILY SAFKONCHUK, SCHWIESAU AT THAT
TIME WAS EXTREMELY OUTSPOKEN WITH HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES
REGARDING THE DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE KHALQIS, AND ES-
PECIALLY ABOUT THE DRA'S NEED TO BROADEN ITS SUPPORT WITHIN
THE COUNTRY. SOME UNCONFIRMED REPORTS WERE MADE THAT AN
INTEGRAL PART OF THIS ALLEGED SOVIET EFFORT WAS THE THEN
THEN PRIME MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN'S POWERS HAD TO BE
CURTAILED, SINCE HE WAS THE PERCEIVED VILLAIN BEHIND THE DRA'S
REPRESSIVE AND RADICAL POLICIES.

WHICH, AS TIME PASSED, HINT'S REAL POLITICAL POWER APPEARED TO INCREASE, DESPITE THE NOTIONABLE EFFORT TO CLIP HIS WINGS, AND AMIN OFFERED SEVERAL PUBLIC HINTS THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE SOVIET "TRANSLUING" WHICH GAFRONCHUK AND SCHWIEGSAU WERE PRACTISING ALL OVER L.A.. NOT LONG AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT AMIN'S POWER WERE NOT DECLINING, COM- MENDABLE REPORTS DEPARTED KABUL, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE HE HAD SUFFERED A STROKE AND WHICH WOULD RECOVER SIX MONTHS IN AMMAN AND HERE. OUR OWN COLLEAGUES WERE GIVE NO INDICATION THAT IN THE INTERIM THAT SCHWIEGSAU WOULD NOT RETURN TO WORK TO TAKE UP HIS AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT.

AS FOR AS WITH MOST ELEMENTS OF THIS STORY, THE REAS- ONS BEHIND SCHWIEGSAU'S APPOINTMENT ARE NOT CLEAR, AND SCHWIEGSAU'S PERMANENT DEPARTURE COULD HAVE SEVERAL EXPLANATIONS. THE MOST OBVIOUS IS THAT HIS MEDICAL PROBLEMS HAVE REQUIRED THE GOR TO FILL THE VACANCY HERE, FAR BETTER THAN TO WAIT FOR SCHWIEGSAU'S FULL RECOVERY. ANOTHER EXPLANATION IS THAT SCHWIEGSAU HAD SEVERED HIS TIES WITH AMIN, BECAUSE OF THE "SECRET" CAPER, AND THAT HIS DEPARTURE AS A RESULT OF HIS DEPARTURE WERE NO LONGER NEEDED IN KABUL. IF SUCH WERE THE CASE, THAT AMIN, THE SUPPOSED PRINCIPAL TARGET OF THE AMIN, TO REFUSE THE SOVIETIC IMPOSITION THROUGH POLITICAL REASONS, WOULD SCHWIEGSAU'S APOPT DEPARTURE POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF THAT AMIN WAS, IN FACT, A LARGER IF THE AMIN, WHOSE INTENTION OF VOLUNTARILY RELINQUISHING HIS POSITION, HAD CLOSE FRIENDS THE SOVIET INTELLECTS WOULD BE MORE WILING TO BEHIND THE SCENES TO BRING ABOUT HIS DEPARTURE FROM KABUL. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT SCHWIEGSAU'S APOPT DEPARTURE AS A REPLACEMENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN SOME WAY POLITICALLY AND NOT NECESS- ARILY MOTIVATED. HOWEVER THE CASE MAY BE, AS A RESULT OF THE AMIN, WHOSE INTENTION IS SHOWN IN KABUL, THE SOVIET AMIN TO HAVE A MORE SHORT-TERM POLICE BUT TO SUPPORT AMIN IN HIS ATTEMPT TO BRING THE SOVIET INSURGENCY AND CONSOLIDATE THE SECURITY OF THE REVOLUTION.

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